CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device for retaining a golf club head, comprising:

a housing;

an insert removably coupled to said housing, said insert configured to at least partially contact the golf club head; and

a locking mechanism coupled to said housing.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said insert contains a cavity configured to at least partially contact the golf club head therein.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein said cavity is at least partially contoured to the golf club head.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein said cavity substantially envelopes the golf club head.

5. The device of claim 2, wherein:

said housing includes a lower housing part and an upper housing part; and

said insert includes a lower insert part coupled to said lower housing part and an upper insert part coupled to said upper housing part.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein said lower insert part is removably coupled to said lower housing part and said upper insert part is removably coupled to said upper housing part.

7. The device of claim 5, wherein:

said lower insert part contains a lower cavity part;

said upper insert part contains an upper cavity part; and

said lower cavity part and said upper cavity part are configured to matingly form said cavity.

8. The device of claim 5, wherein at least one of said lower insert part and said upper insert part defines a hole configured to allow a shaft coupled to the golf club head to pass therethrough.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein said insert is formed at least in part of resin.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein said resin has a gel time of approximately one hour or less.

11. The device of claim 9, wherein said resin, when cured, has a specific gravity of approximately 1.7 to approximately 1.8.

12. The device of claim 9, wherein said resin, when cured, has a Shore D hardness of approximately 80 to approximately 90.

13. The device of claim 9, wherein said resin, when cured, has an ultimate compressive strength from approximately 8,000 psi to approximately 15,000 psi.

14. The device of claim 9, wherein said resin, when cured, has an ultimate flexural strength from approximately 5,000 psi to approximately 11,000 psi.

15. The device of claim 9, wherein said resin, when cured, has a coefficient of thermal expansion within the range of approximately $1.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$ in./in/°F to approximately $4.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$ in./in/°F.

16. The device of claim 9, wherein said resin is selected from the group consisting of RP 132 resin, RP 3262 resin, and RP 3269 resin.

17. The device of claim 1, wherein said insert is removably coupled to said housing.

18. The device of claim 1, wherein:

said housing includes a lower housing part and an upper housing part; and

said insert includes a lower insert part coupled to said lower housing part and an upper insert part coupled to said upper housing part.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein said lower housing part is hingedly connected to said upper housing part.

20. The device of claim 1, wherein said locking mechanism includes a cross bar and a locking bar.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein said locking bar is selectively engageable with said cross bar to retain the golf club head within said housing.

22. The device of claim 20, wherein:

said locking mechanism further includes a stator bar coupled to said housing at one end and hingedly coupled to said cross bar at an opposite end; and

said locking bar is hingedly coupled to said housing.

23. The device of claim 22, wherein:

said housing includes a lower housing part and an upper housing part, said lower housing part being hingedly connected to said upper housing part; and

said cross bar is moveable between an open position, in which said housing parts are relatively moveable, and a closed position, in which said housing parts are relatively fixed.

24. The device of claim 23, wherein:

said locking bar includes a lock; and

said lock is selectively engageable to retain said cross bar in said closed position.

25. The device of claim 22, wherein:

said cross bar includes a notch; and

said locking bar is configured to fit, at least in part, within said notch.

26. The device of claim 25, further comprising a lock coupled to said locking bar.

27. The device of claim 26, wherein said lock is selectively engageable to retain or release said cross bar.

28. The device of claim 27, wherein said lock is threadably engageable.

29. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is portable.

30. The device of claim 1, further comprising a base member for securing said housing member.

31. The device of claim 30, wherein said base member is integral with said housing.

32. The device of claim 30, wherein said base member is configured to be at least partially retained within a vise.

33. A device for customizing each of a group of distinct golf clubs, comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of inserts, each of said inserts being tailored to a specific golf club of the group of distinct golf clubs; and

a locking mechanism.

34. The device of claim 33, wherein each of said inserts is at least partially contoured to its specific golf club.

35. The device of claim 34, wherein each of said inserts substantially envelopes its specific golf club.